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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/293,297	04/16/1999	SHAWN P. MCALLISTER	1400.9801200	4690

7590                  06/04/2002

MARKISON & RECKAMP PC  
175 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
SUITE 1015  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

DUONG, DUC T

[REDACTED] ART UNIT      [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2663

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/293,297	MCALLISTER ET AL.	
	Examiner Duc T. Duong	Art Unit 2663	
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>			
<b>Period for Reply</b>			
<b>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).</li> <li>- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</li> </ul>			
<b>Status</b>			
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>16 April 1999</u> .			
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL.                    2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.			
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.			
<b>Disposition of Claims</b>			
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-33</u> is/are pending in the application.			
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.			
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.			
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-8 and 10-33</u> is/are rejected.			
7) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>9</u> is/are objected to.			
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.			
<b>Application Papers</b>			
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.			
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).			
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.			
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.			
<b>Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120</b>			
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some * c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.			
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.			
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.			
<b>Attachment(s)</b>			
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .	
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .		6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .	

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-17, 19-27, 29-31, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bertin et al (U.S. Patent 5,687,167).

Regarding to claims 1 and 23, Bertin discloses a link characteristic processor (Fig. 3) comprising a processing module 305 and memory 306 operably coupled to the processing module. The memory includes operating instruction that cause the processing module to determine connection type characteristics for a link, and advertise the connection type characteristics to at least one node in the network (col. 6 lines 5-14). The node utilizes the connection type characteristics for selecting a routing path within the network for a connection (col. 6 lines 23-26).

Regarding to claim 2, Bertin discloses a routing path within the network for a connection based on the connection type characteristics (col. 6 lines 30-33).

Regarding to claims 3 and 24, Bertin discloses detecting a change in the link, wherein the change produces altered connection type characteristics, and advertising the altered connection type characteristics (col. 8 lines 43-54).

Regarding to claims 4 and 25, Bertin discloses the connection type characteristics is performed by a localized node coupled to the link (col. 5 lines 5-7).

Regarding to claims 5, 6, 26, and 27, Bertin discloses broadcasting the connection type characteristics to each nodes in the network (col. 13 lines 13-17).

Regarding to claim 7, Bertin discloses compiling connection type characteristics for a plurality of links within the network to produce a characteristic data set, wherein selecting the routing path further comprises selecting the routing path using the characteristic data set (Fig. 5 col. 8 lines 56-67).

Regarding to claim 8, Bertin discloses comparing characteristics of a connection request with the characteristic data set, wherein the routing path is provided in response to the connection request (col. 10 lines 37-47).

Regarding to claim 10, Bertin discloses the connection type characteristics include information indicating likelihood of establishing the connection using the link, wherein the connection has a connection type (col. 9 lines 2-7).

Regarding to claims 11, 20, and 21, Bertin discloses the connection type of the connection is one of a plurality of connection types, wherein the plurality of connection types includes a plurality of priority levels that determine prioritization of connections (col. 13 lines 64-67).

Regarding to claims 13 and 19, Bertin discloses the connection type of the connection is one of a plurality of connection types, wherein the plurality of connection types includes a plurality of user connection types, wherein bandwidth on the link is partitioned between different user connection types (Fig. 4 col. 20-29).

Regarding to claim 14, Bertin discloses sending a call setup sequence to establish the connection along the routing path (col. 12 lines 64-67).

Regarding to claims 15 and 29, Bertin discloses a connection processor (Fig. 3) comprising a processing module 305 and memory 306 operably coupled to the processing module. The memory includes operating instruction that cause the processing module to receive a connection request that includes a plurality of parameters, wherein the plurality of parameters includes a receiving party and a connection type characteristic (Fig. 1 col. 12 lines 64-67). The processor then compare the plurality of parameters with a table that stores network parameters to produce a first routing path to the receiving party (Fig. 1 col. 13 lines 1-3). The network parameters include links within the network and corresponding connection type characteristic capabilities for the links to establish the connection along the first routing path (col. 12 lines 9-25).

Regarding to claims 16, 17, 30, and 31, Bertin discloses if establishing the connection along the first routing path is unsuccessful, compare the plurality of parameters with the table that stores network parameters to produce at least a second routing path to the receiving party, and establishing the connection along the second routing path (col. 15 lines 1-5).

Regarding to claims 22 and 33, Bertin discloses establishing the connection along the first routing path comprises sending a designated transit list to each node along the first routing path (col. 13 lines 12-17).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12, 18, 28, and 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertin et al (U.S. Patent 5,687,167) in view of Chase et al (U.S. Patent 6,188,671 B1).

Regarding to claim 12, 18, 28, and 32, Bertin discloses all the limitation with respect claim 1, includes the connection type characteristic indicating the bandwidth allocation over each the link in the network (Fig. 4 col. 17-29).

Bertin fails to teach for a plurality of connection types with switched virtual connections and soft permanent virtual connections.

However, Chase discloses a traffic management in a frame relay or ATM network, wherein plurality of nodes established communications using SVCs and PVCs (col. 3 lines 1-14).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to include communication links of SVCs and PVCs as taught by Chase in Bertin's system with the motivation to accommodate different types of protocol network, such as X.25 and ATM.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claim 9 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc T. Duong whose telephone number is 703-605-5146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8:30 AM-5:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau T. Nguyen can be reached on 703-308-5340. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9600.

DD  
May 31, 2002

*Duc T. Duong*  
5/31/02